Syllabus

Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

PSYC 203, Section 901
Spring 2021

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2:45 pm – 3:40 pm

Instructor: Bartlett D. Moore IV, PhD, email: bart4@rice.edu
office hours: http://bart.rice.edu/appointments/
Teaching assistants: Andrea Augustine, email: aa100@rice.edu
Catherine Hettler, email: cjh12@rice.edu

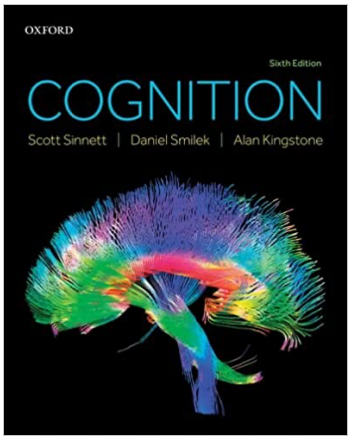
Course overview

Catalog Description:
An introduction to topics in cognitive psychology, including perception, attention, language, memory, and decision making. Required for psychology majors. 3 Credit Hours. CRN: 20159

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:
This course comprises a tour of the mental landscape that will expose students to the intricacies of the human mind. The primary objective of the course is to introduce students to the various ways information is processed by the human mind so that they can then apply what they have learned in their chosen course of study. By the end of the course, students will be able to summarize the neural basis of cognition, describe attributes of visual perception, attention, and intellectual reasoning, characterize different forms of memory, and map the organization of language. Students will also gain first-hand experience with active research on cognitive phenomena by either participating in research experiments or conducting a critical review of a recent scientific publication. The course is useful for those entering broad array of intellectual pursuits, from economics to molecular neuroscience, or anyone interested in the structure and function of the human mind.

Special note regarding the online nature of the class:
We must all work together to thwart the current global pandemic and unfortunately this means we must work apart to be safe. While it is disappointing that the class cannot meet in person, I would still like to speak with each of you individually. Doing this will allow me to optimize the course so that it benefits you and your classmates. With that in mind, I request but do not require you to make a personal appointment: http://bart.rice.edu/appointments/

Course requirements



Textbook:
Cognition (*6th Edition*) by Scott Sinnett and others
ISBN-10: 0199019703, ISBN-13: 978-0199019700

Canvas course site:
Course proceedings rely heavily on Canvas (`https://www.rice.edu/canvas`). Announcements and general course information will be posted on Canvas, so please check in regularly. In addition, weekly quizzes and exams will take place on Canvas. Please let me or the course TA know if you encounter problems with the website.

Research exposure:

This course offers an opportunity for you to participate in active psychological research. Doing so provides an important perspective on how scientific investigations into mental processes are actually conducted, including their strengths and weaknesses. In order to receive credit for research participation, you must complete three (3) of the following activities before the last day of classes:

- Participate in one credit of ongoing Rice University psychology research studies (https://rice.sona-systems.com/). The course instructor is not associated with any of the experiments. It is expected that many of the research opportunities will be offered in an online format, given the SARS-Cov-2 (COVID-19) pandemic. That being said, if there is a lack of experiments available for participation, please contact the instructor or a TA.
- Write up to three three-page précis (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical_précis) of a recent psychological research article. The article should be approved by the instructor or TA before beginning your work.

To clarify, you can mix-and-match the above for a total of three; you can do either all research participation or précis writing, or you can use a combination to satisfy the research exposure requirement. For example, one could participate in two hours of research and write one précis, or write two précis and participate in one hour of research. You are encouraged to participate in at least one hour of research, but this is not required; you can satisfy the research exposure requirement by writing three précis. All activities must be completed by the last day of class.

Note: SONA only accepts adults age 18 and above. Minors are invited to contact the instructor for alternative research alternatives.

Grades:

Final grades are calculated as follows:

Graded items	Details	Weight
Research exposure	3 credits OR précis	10%
Weekly Quizzes	9 weekly quizzes	40%
Midterm Exams	2 Midterm exams	25%
Final Exam	Comprehensive	25%
Optional Extra Credit:	*see below*	(3%)
Total:		100% (103%)

Weighted average	Letter Grade
90-100%	A
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
Below 60%	F

Extra credit:

You may earn extra credit by participating in ongoing Rice University psychology research studies. Each hour of participation will add 1 percentage point to your final grade, for a maximum of 3%. See here for more details: https://rice.sona-systems.com/ . Alternatively, one could earn one point for each additional précis written, up to three points total.

Course policies:

Attendance:

- Students are expected to attend every class synchronously via Zoom unless they contact the instructor ahead of time to justify their absence (e.g., time-zone difference). You are requested to have your camera on unless there is a reason to not
- Lecture slides are provided, but do not serve as a substitute for attending class
- Makeup work will only be accepted if the student informs the instructor in writing, in advance
- Reasonable accommodations will be made to allow students to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing academic obligations. However, students are expected to inform the instructor about potential absences.

Office Hours:

Office hours are an important way to receive personalized instruction, engage in intellectual discussion not limited to course material, receive general or specific advice, or discuss other topics. You are encouraged to meet with the instructor either individually or in groups. Please use the link above to set up a meeting.

Technology Resources:

If your computer/phone has no webcam/microphone, please let the instructor know as soon as possible and contact the Dean of Undergraduates if you need to request support via the Access and Opportunity Portal (https://aop.rice.edu/application), borrow from the Digital Media Common.

Disability / Special Needs Statement:

If you have a documented disability that may affect academic performance, you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Resource Center (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / x5841) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) meet with me to discuss your accommodation needs.

Rice Honor Code:

In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook at http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/. This handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

RICE MILE

In our daily lives as members of the Rice community and people in the world, we often must face the tasks and events immediately in front of us. It is easy to lose sight of the larger guiding principles and motivations that are so instrumental for success and satisfaction. I urge you to look periodically to the RICE MILE for inspiration. The ideals listed here should accompany you throughout your time at Rice University and beyond. https://people.rice.edu/careersrice/the-rice-mile/

RESPONSIBILITY **I**NTEGRITY, **C**OMMUNITY, **E**XCELLENCE
MISSION DRIVEN, **I**MPACT, **L**EADERSHIP, **E**NTREPRENEURIAL

Syllabus subject to change:

The information contained in this course syllabus is intended as a guide for course conduct. Specific details, may be subject to change and you will be informed beforehand.

Your enrollment at Rice University provides access to world-class resources!
You are encouraged to use them as much as possible

RICE UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Cognitive Psychology

Course Schedule

Spring 2021 PSYC 203, Section 901

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2:45 pm – 3:40 pm via Zoom

Week	Topic	Readings	Event
Week 1	Introduction		
Week 2	The Cognitive Brain		Weekly Quiz 1
Week 3	Sensation and Perception: Vision		Weekly Quiz 2
Week 4	Attention		**Midterm Exam 1**
Week 5	Memory Systems		Weekly Quiz 3
Week 6	Memory and Schemas		Weekly Quiz 4
Week 7	Imagery		Weekly Quiz 5
Week 8	Concepts		**Midterm Exam 2**
Week 9	Language		Weekly Quiz 6
Week 10	Problem-Solving		Weekly Quiz 7
Week 11	Reasoning and Judgement		Weekly Quiz 8
Week 12	Intelligence and creativity		Weekly Quiz 9
Week 13	Consciousness		Weekly Quiz 10
Week 14	Wrap up		**Final Exam**

Notes:

- Sign up for SONA
- Make an appointment to meet Dr. Moore?
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